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LONG-TERM
ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH
Special Announcement
Special Competition
LTER Project Augmentation for
Regionalization, Comprehensive Site
Histories, and Increased Disciplinary Breadth

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: May 1, 1994
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH
Special Announcement

LTER Project Augmentation for Regionalization, Comprehensive Site
Histories, and Increased Disciplinary Scope

OBJECTIVE:

Managing the earth's natural resources is important but complex. Decisions concerning the management of those resources need to be based on the values expressed by diverse constituencies and represent judgments by decision makers who consider as much evidence as possible. Many such decisions have been made without adequate knowledge of the consequences of the actions as they relate to the near-term and long-term availability and quality of natural resources and vital ecological processes. The scientific community must consider these needs in research designed to acquire knowledge relevant to national priorities. The most useful information about natural resources will have several characteristics:

- the data will be of sufficient duration that it will be possible to distinguish short-term variation from long-term trends
- the data will have been collected over enough different environmental conditions and spatial scales so that researchers can determine the range of conditions to which the results can be meaningfully extrapolated and applied
- the data must measure the important considerations from all the relevant points of view, e.g., physical and biological features, social and economic characteristics
- there must be an understanding of the uncertainty of the data (i.e. accuracy and/or precision)
- any program designed to provide this information must be based on a stable framework so there is both a continuity to the data collection and a convenient methodology for translating the data in a manner that is most useful (for example, a Geographic Information System)

The LTER program contains many of the essential elements needed, particularly a structure for providing long-term measurements, continuity, scientific rigor, a close coupling between ecological

patterns and studies of the processes determining these patterns, and an organized framework for collecting, archiving, and making information available. This Special Announcement is to augment the LTER program in a way that enhances these objectives.

In Fiscal Year 1994 the LTER Program will provide significant augmentation for two or three LTER projects to facilitate development of regionalization, comprehensive site histories, and increased disciplinary scope.

Regionalization is interpreted as the expansion of scientific objectives and analyses to the regional scale through the involvement of investigators from other institutions (academic, governmental, or private) and research sites in the biogeographic area of an extant LTER project.

Comprehensive Site History is defined as the development of long temporal data bases and analyses, retrospective as well as prospective, of the biological (including human) and physical environmental character of an extant LTER site for increasing the accuracy of projections into the future.

Increased Disciplinary Scope addresses the development of broader collaborations with investigators in disciplines such as social and economic sciences, systematics, population biology, physiological ecology, neuroscience, physical environmental sciences, mathematics and computer science, and science education.

Review of requests will specifically emphasize these three areas as well as the changes in project organization and management required by the augmentation.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

All current LTER projects funded through the Division of Environmental Biology are eligible to submit requests.

Identification of scientific questions/hypotheses is left to the discretion of investigators. Review of augmentation proposals will emphasize the evaluation of new questions/hypotheses and the incorporation of additional expertise to address them effectively. Care should be taken to demonstrate clearly how the expanded research builds upon and augments previously supported LTER project themes and objectives. New collaborations and associations of investigators are specifically encouraged as are alliances with other research-supporting agencies.

Each project must be prepared as a request for support to commence on the next funding anniversary date of the subject LTER project, and may be proposed to run only for the period of time remaining on the current LTER award. Although a request must involve investigators based at the appropriate LTER site, the Program emphasizes that not all investigators involved must be LTER investigators. Non-LTER investigators are encouraged to contact the appropriate LTER Principal Investigator to discuss participation (see the attached table).

Review of the requests will be by an interdisciplinary panel and in accordance with standard NSF merit review guidelines.

Budget requests may range up to \$500,000 per year for the appropriate time period. Preparation and submission must follow the proposal guidelines given in the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG), NSF 94-2. Note especially that a 15-page limit applies to the project description portion of the proposal, including figures and tables. No letters of endorsement or other appendices are allowed. Required NSF forms are found in GPG which is available from:

NSF Forms and Publication Unit
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA. 22230
Tel: 703-306-1130
FAX: 703-644-4270

Proposal length, format, and content specifications stated in GPG will be strictly enforced.

Ten copies of each request must be transmitted directly to the Long-Term Studies Program, the Division of Environmental Biology, Room 635, NSF, Arlington, VA 22230, postmarked no later than May 1, 1994. Packages should be clearly marked **Do Not Open in Mail Room - Deliver Directly to Addressee**.

Grants awarded as a result of this announcement (solicitation) are administered in accordance with the terms and conditions of NSF GC-1, **Grant General Conditions**, or FDP-II, **Federal Demonstration Project General Terms and Conditions**, depending on the grantee organization. Copies of these documents are available at no cost from the NSF Forms and Publications Unit, phone (703) 306-1130, or via e-mail pubs@nsf (BITNET) or pubs@nsf.gov (Internet). More comprehensive information is contained in the NSF Grant Policy Manual (NSF 88-47, July 1989), for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The telephone number at GPO is (202) 783-3238 for subscription information.

INQUIRIES

For inquiries related to this announcement, contact Dr. James T. Callahan, Division of Environmental Biology, at 703-306-1483 (e-mail jcallaha@nsf.gov).

LTER PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

H.J. Andrews, Frederick Swanson	503-750-7355
Jornada, William Schlesinger	919-684-2453
Arctic Tundra, John Hobbie	508-548-3705
Kellogg, Philip Robertson	616-671-2267
Bonanza Creek, Keith Van Cleve	907-474-6927
Konza Prairie, Alan Knapp	913-532-7094
Cedar Creek, David Tilman	612-625-5743
Luquillo, Robert Waide	809-767-0334
Central Plains, William Lauenroth	303-491-7581
Niwot Ridge, Timothy Seastedt	303-492-3302
Coweeta, Judy Meyer	706-542-3363
North Temperate Lakes, John Magnuson	608-262-3014
Harvard Forest, David Foster	508-724-3302
Sevilleta, Bruce Milne	505-277-5356
Hubbard Brook, Charles Driscoll	315-443-3434
Virginia Coast Reserve, Bruce Hayden	804-924-7761

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The Foundation welcomes proposals on behalf of all qualified scientists and engineers, and strongly encourages women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to compete fully in any of the research and research-related programs described in this document.

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Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) provides funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on an NSF project

including student research assistants) to work on an NSF project. See the program announcement (NSF 91-54) or contact the program coordinator at (703) 306-1636.

Privacy Act and Public Burden. Information requested on NSF application materials is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. It will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals and may be used and disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the review process and to other government agencies. See System of Records, NSF-50, pPrincipal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Recordsp and NSF-51, Reviewer/Proposal Files and Associated Recordsp 56 Federal Register 54907 (October 23, 1991). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of your receiving an award.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Herman G. Fleming
Reports Clearance Officer
Division of CPO
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd.,
Arlington, VA 22230

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Washington, DC 20503

The Foundation has TDD (Telephonic Device for the Deaf) capability, which enables individuals with hearing impairment to communicate with the NSF Information Center about NSF programs, employment, or general information. The telephone number is (703) 306-0090.

Using electronic dissemination, you can get information quickly through STIS (Science and Technology Information System), NSF's online publishing system described in NSF 94-4 the pSTIS Flyerp. To get a paper copy of the flyer, call the NSF Publications Section at (703) 306-1130. For an electronic copy, send an e-mail message to: stisfly@nsf.gov[Internet] or stisfly@nsf[Bitnet]. The program described in this publication is in category 47.074 in the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance.

NSF 94-60 (new)
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